

CLAIMS

1. Implant used in procedures for stiffening the vertebral column, the implant comprising an enclosed hollow body which includes at least two movable open receptacles (3, 4), oriented toward one another which interlock, and can be spread apart by inserting a filling material or by utilizing a filling material made of an elastomer (12) in order to expand the hollow body (1).
2. Implant according to claim 1, wherein there are two of the open receptacles (3, 4) which interlock.
3. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant can be connected to a supply hose (6).
4. Implant according to claim 3, wherein an other end of the supply hose (6) is adapted for connection to a device used to generate a filling pressure.
5. Implant according to claim 3, wherein an opening (8) for connecting the supply hose (6) is also used for attaching an instrument (5) used to insert the hollow body (1).
6. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the filling material is made of a tissue compatible, liquid or initially liquid phase, self hardening material.
7. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is structured or coated on one part or over an entire surface thereof.
8. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles (3,4) forming the hollow body are sealed with one another.
9. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles (3,4) forming the

hollow body are adjustable relative to each other, whereby adjusting movement is limited to a certain area, which ensures a mutual overlapping of the receptacles (3,4).

10. Implant according to claim 9, wherein the adjusting movement between the two receptacles (3, 4) is limited through a screw (9) in one of the two receptacles catching in a slit (10) in the other of the two receptacles.

11. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the elastomer (12) is filled into an inner portion of the hollow body (1).

12. Implant according to claim 11, wherein the elastomer (12) completely or partially fills the hollow body (1).

13. Implant according claim 11, wherein the elastomer (12) filled into the hollow body (1) is loosely or firmly fitted to an inner side wall of the hollow body (1).

14. Implant according to claim 1, wherein inner surfaces of upper and bottom wall (16, 15) of the interlocking receptacles (3,4) of the hollow body (1) penetrate into the filled in elastomer (12) when compressed.

15. Implant according to claim 1, wherein a hollow space is left below the filled-in elastomer (12), which is between the elastomer (12) and a bottom wall (15) of the interlocked receptacles (3,4) of the hollow body (1).

16. Implant according to claim 1, wherein an airtight air bubble (17) is incorporated in the elastomer (12).

17. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is compressed to minimum height before implantation and a device, such as a clamping screw (18), is

attached to the hollow body (1) to expand the hollow body (1) after implantation.

18. Implant according to claim 1, wherein an exterior one of the receptacles (3) of the hollow body (1) has a wedge shaped insertion end (10).

19. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant is manufactured from metal, polymer or a composite material.

20. Implant according to claim 19, wherein in manufacture using polymer or composite material, elements or material are incorporated in the implant that produce radiological shadows.

21. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles (3, 4) of the hollow body (1) can be pressurized and have a form of a partial cylinder or prism, whereby base and cover plates are included that are even or slightly arched and are positioned parallel or slightly slanted relative to each other.

22. Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant includes a connection for attaching an implantation instrument.

23. Implant according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the implant is structured and/or coated.